

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A puller tool for ~~pulling a mandrel through a split sleeve that is cold working~~ an opening in a workpiece, ~~said~~the puller tool comprising:

an elongated mandrel having a first circumference portion sized to radially expand the opening in the workpiece;

an elongated first tubular member having a mandrel receiving center passageway and a slotted outer end portion comprising first axial fingers separated by first axial slots;

an elongated second tubular member surrounding ~~said~~the first tubular member and having a slotted outer end portion comprising second axial fingers separated by second axial slots;

an elongated third tubular member surrounding ~~said~~the second tubular member and having a slotted outer end portion comprising third axial fingers separated by third axial slots;

~~an elongated mandrel inside said~~the center passageway, ~~said~~the mandrel having a small diameter inner end portion, a large diameter outer end portion, and an increasing diameter portion extending from the small diameter inner end portion to the large diameter outer end portion;

~~said~~the third fingers having outer end portions forming an end opening and including radially inwardly projecting clamp jaws having substantially radial first clamp surfaces;

~~said~~the first axial fingers including outer end portions having substantially radial second clamp surfaces which confront the first clamp surfaces;

~~said~~the first tubular member being extendable and retractable longitudinally of with respect to the second and third tubular members;

~~said~~the first and second tubular members having first and second cam surfaces,

saidthe first cam surfaces being radially outwardly directed on the first axial fingers and saidthe second cam surfaces being radially inwardly directed on the second axial fingers;

saidthe first and second cam surfaces being adapted to contact each other and expand the second axial fingers radially in response to the first tubular member being retracted into the second tubular member, and saidthe expansion of the second axial fingers being adapted to cause an expansion of the third axial fingers and an enlargement of the end opening formed by the axial fingers of the third tubular member;

a tubular sleeve having an inner end and a flange projecting radially outwardly from saidthe sleeve at saidthe inner end, saidthe flange being sized to move axially through the end opening in the outer end of the third tubular member when the third axial fingers are expanded, and saidthe flange being sized to be received between and be clamped by the first and second clamp surfaces when the first tubular member is extended axially and the second and third axial fingers are contracted radially;

saidthe tubular sleeve having a tubular portion that extends axially from the flange and the end opening when the flange is clamped by and between the first and second clamp surfaces;

saidthe mandrel being extendable axially through the center passageway of the first tubular member and axially through the tubular sleeve when the radial flange is clamped by and between the first and second clamp surfaces; and

saidthe mandrel being retractable through the sleeve and into the center passageway, when the radial flange is clamped by and between the first and second clamp surfaces.

2. (Currently Amended) The puller tool of claim 1, comprising a housing having a first end including an end opening, wherein the first tubular member has an inner end portion which extends through the end opening into the housing, and saidthe second and third tubular members have inner ends which are connected to the first end of the housing.

3. (Currently Amended) The puller tool of claim 2, comprising a push/pull member within saidthe housing to which the inner end of the first tubular member is connected.

4. (Currently Amended) The puller tool of claim 3, wherein the push/pull member is tubular and the elongated mandrel has an inner end portion that extends from the first tubular member into the push/pull member, and there is a second push/pull member in saidthe housing to which the mandrel is connected.

5. (Currently Amended) The puller tool of claim 1, wherein saidthe mandrel includes an endwise outwardly tapering portion extending endwise outwardly beyond saidthe large diameter outer end portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The puller tool of claim 1, wherein the clamp jaws of the third fingers include axial surfaces extending axially from the substantially radial first clamp surfaces, and saidthe outer end portions of saidthe first axial fingers include axial surfaces that extend axially from the radial second clamp surfaces, wherein when the flange on the sleeve is clamped by and between the first and second clamp surfaces, the axial surfaces on the first axial fingers are contiguous the axial surfaces on the clamp jaws.

7. (Original) The puller tool of claim 1, wherein the tubular sleeve has a single axial spit and is adapted to expand in diameter in response to the large diameter portion of the mandrel being moved axially through it.

8. (Currently Amended) The puller tool of claim 7, comprising a housing having a first end including an end opening, wherein the first tubular member has an inner end portion which extends through the end opening into the housing, and saidthe second and third tubular members have inner ends which are connected to the first end of the housing.

9. (Currently Amended) The puller tool of claim 8, comprising a push/pull member within saidthe housing to which the inner end of the first tubular member is connected.

10. (Currently Amended) The puller tool of claim 9, wherein the push/pull member is tubular and the elongated mandrel has an inner end portion that extends from the first tubular member into the push/pull member, and there is a second push/pull member in ~~said~~the housing to which the mandrel is connected.

11. (Currently Amended) The puller tool of claim 7, wherein ~~said~~the mandrel includes an endwise outwardly tapering portion extending endwise outwardly beyond ~~said~~the large diameter outer end portion.

12. (Currently Amended) The puller tool of claim 7, wherein the clamp jaws of the third fingers include axial surfaces extending axially from the substantially radial first clamp surfaces, and ~~said~~the outer end portions of ~~said~~the first axial fingers include axial surfaces that extend axially from the radial second clamp surfaces, wherein when the flange on the sleeve is clamped by and between the first and second clamp surfaces, the axial surfaces on the first axial fingers are contiguous the axial surfaces on the clamp jaws.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (New) A puller tool for cold working an opening in a split sleeve, the split sleeve having an elongated body, a radially extending flange attached to one end of the body, and a longitudinal gap down a length of the body for permitting the split sleeve to be biasly expanded and contracted; the puller tool comprising:

an elongated mandrel having a first circumference portion sized to radially expand the split sleeve;

a tool housing for receiving the mandrel and for axially guiding the mandrel; and

a plurality of shafts assembled to have a cooperative interrelationship, the shafts comprising:

a first shaft having a first set of fingers biasly cantilevered from a portion of the first shaft, the first set of fingers separated by a plurality of axial slots extending from the portion of the first shaft to a terminal end of the first shaft, each of the first set of fingers having a radially extending, tapered protuberance near the terminal end, the first shaft coupled to the tool housing and axially moveable with respect to the housing, the first shaft sized to receive the mandrel in a passageway formed within the first shaft;

a second shaft having a second set of fingers biasly cantilevered from a first portion of the second shaft, the second set of fingers separated by a plurality of axial slots extending from the first portion of the second shaft to a terminal end of the second shaft, a second portion near the end of each finger being complementarily shaped to receive the protuberances on each of the first set of fingers of the first shaft without causing a radial expansion of the second set of fingers, a third portion of each of the finger shaped to engage the protuberances on each of the first set of fingers and cause the radial expansion of the second set of fingers, the second shaft affixed to the tool housing, the second shaft having a passageway sized to receive the first shaft; and

a third shaft having a third set of fingers biasly cantilevered from a portion of the third shaft, the third set of fingers separated by a plurality of axial slots extending from the portion of the third shaft to a terminal end of the third shaft, each finger of the third shaft having a radially inwardly projecting flange, the third set of finger being in an expanded position when the protuberances on each the first set of fingers are recessed within the second portion of each of the second set of fingers, the third set of finger being in a relaxed position when the protuberances on each the first set of fingers are moved into contact with the third portion of each of the second set of fingers, the expanded position permitting the third set of fingers to receive the radially extending flange of the split sleeve, the contracted position permitting the radially inwardly projecting flanges on each of the third set of fingers to capture and at least temporarily retain the radially extending flange of the split sleeve, the third shaft having a passageway sized to receive the second shaft.

17. (New) The puller tool of claim 16 wherein the opening in the workpiece is an opening in a bushing, the bushing being received by an opening in a structural member.

18. (New) A cooperating shaft assembly for use with a puller tool to radially expand a split sleeve within an opening in a work piece, the assembly comprising:

a first shaft having a passageway and radially inwardly projecting clamp jaws that are selectively deformable to form a radially expandable open end;

a second shaft at least partially received by the first shaft, the second shaft having a first inner perimeter and a second inner perimeter, the first inner perimeter larger than the second inner perimeter, a detent region formed between an end of the second shaft and a transition region where the first inner perimeter transitions into the second inner perimeter;

a third shaft having an outer perimeter and at least one tapered, radially extending protuberance located on the outer perimeter of the third shaft, the third shaft at least partially received by the second shaft and axially translatable with respect to the second shaft into a first position and a second position, the second position spaced from the first position,

wherein in the first position the at least one protuberance engagably interacts with the second inner perimeter of the second shaft to permit radial expansion of the clamp jaws of the first shaft, and in the second position the at least one protuberance is located along the detent region of the second shaft to allow a radial contraction of the clamp jaws of the first shaft; and

a mandrel axially coupled with the puller tool and axially moveable through the passageway of the first shaft, the mandrel having a cold working portion sized to radially expand the split sleeve.

19. (New) The assembly of claim 18 wherein the first inner perimeter of the second shaft is circular.

20. (New) The assembly of claim 18 wherein the first inner perimeter of the second shaft is non-circular.

21. (New) The assembly of claim 18 wherein the passageway of the first shaft is sized to be larger than the cold working portion of the mandrel.